



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP OPPOSES ADMINISTRATION EFFORT TO CRACK DOWN ON CHILDREN IN SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Says Attack on Program Demonstrates the 'Wrong Priority'

Shirley, NY: Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) today held an event at William Floyd Elementary School in Shirley to oppose Administration efforts to penalize children who are receiving free or discounted school lunches. Bishop ate lunch with the school's fourth graders before detailing his opposition.

"It is the wrong priority to crackdown on low-income students over a \$2.14 lunch, but not on corporations who cost our nation an estimated \$4 billion each year by exploiting corporate loopholes," Bishop said. "The Administration's attack on our most vulnerable children and their families is simply the wrong priority."

As a cost-cutting move, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is looking at ways to reduce the number of students receiving free and reduced school lunches by adding new financial documentation requirements and possibly changing the criteria to enroll. Thus far, the USDA has spent \$2 million on a pilot program, which will be completed in June. Bishop held today's event in the hope of pre-empting any cuts to the program.

"I am here in the hopes of derailing a bad idea before it becomes an even worse plan," Bishop said. "Throwing kids out of the school lunch program is the wrong plan and it reflects the wrong priorities."

At William Floyd Elementary School, 215 children participate in the school lunch program. In Suffolk County, there are 48,975 eligible children, of whom 35,563 (72.6%) participate in the program. In New York State, 1,254,768 students are eligible, of whom 1,254,768 (70.9%) participate.

Education is one of Bishop's top priorities in Congress, and he was recently appointed to the House Education and the Workforce Committee. Prior to serving in Congress, Bishop was Provost of Southampton College for 16 years and worked at the college for a total of 29 years.

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